

seasons. In the spring it keeps closely to the low ground never but once having been noted in the orchard on the hill, while in the fall migration it is to be found frequently in the trees and shrubbery near the house as well as among the willows at our watering-place.

NOTES ON THE HENSLOW'S SPARROWS (*Ammodramus henslowii*) IN MAHONING COUNTY, OHIO.

BY EARNEST W. VICKERS.

In July, 1907, I discovered that we had suffered an invasion of Henslow's Sparrows at Ellsworth Station, Mahoning County, Ohio, where for almost ten years I have carried on bird observations.

On July 14, while haying in a 14-acre meadow of very heavy upland grass, the fact suddenly dawned on me that a new sparrow voice was all about, and to be heard above the rattle of the hay wagons, and clatter of loader, tedder and other noisy hay-making machinery.

It occurred that I had heard the strange voices for several days, but I was unable to say how long. The shrill, quaint cry sounded like "tis-zeek, tis-zeek," accented on the last syllable, sometimes changed to "tip-see, tis-zeek."

There was a ventriloquial quality about it, for it seemed to be equally remote and near, like the thinner strain of the Grasshopper Sparrow, which I had first observed for Ellsworth in 1895.

When one of these newcomers at length revealed himself, he proved one of the most nervous, excitable of birds and would crouch down and rise up as if about to take wing after the manner of the Meadowlark, turn round and round, all nervous and fussy at being approached, giving utterance to his sharp and characteristic call. I spent several evenings with them after work and secured three males highly developed sexually. There were from nine to twelve males in this single meadow, and examination of neighboring fields revealed no more.

The calling birds probably represented so many pairs.

When the grass was finally cut they took to the adjoining wheat stubble where the stocking was growing rankly, and where, perched on the shocks they afforded excellent opportunities for observation. But with the removal of the wheat they disappeared or dispersed over surrounding fields and pastures.

The strain, or call, is very different in character, and not to be confused with that of the Grasshopper or Yellow-winged Sparrow—less of a song than an outcry of complaint or alarm.

To Mr. George L. Fordyce, of Youngstown, belongs the honor of first recording the Henslow Sparrow for Mahoning County, in Boardman Township, April 30 and May 1, 1907, but it failed to return to his territory this year. It is of interest to note in passing that this irregularly distributed sparrow should have been observed at two points so far apart in one county, there being the space of about two townships between our two stations for it. How interesting it would be if ornithologists were so thick over the land that the circles of their peripatetics intersected: then we would be able to know whether the movement of a bird like the Henslow Sparrow took the form of a wave or only occurred in streaks. The spring of 1908 I recorded its first reappearance on April 23, saw it again the 24th, and called it "common" the 26th, when I saw it at several widely separated points in Ellsworth Township. Singularly enough it was more abundant in a field almost a mile east of the one wherein it was discovered in July, 1907. Indeed, in the latter field, but few were noted this year. Since its reappearance the past spring, it has been observed every month up to this writing; and although it doubtless breeds in Ellsworth, quite a little systematic search failed to disclose its nest.

After its arrival, ere the grass had grown thick enough to provide sufficient hiding, it was interesting to fix the eyes on the distant point where a Henslow had dropped down, and stalk it. Thus, by working carefully and slowly, I got within three or four feet of one several times, as it crouched ready to spring into flight, motionlessly regarding me. I could note the interesting pattern of its sparrow coat, the quick heaving of its breast and the twinkle of its clear bright eye, and I even tried to clap my hat over it—I had no salt—but it just escaped, and

I could, in all likelihood, have taken it in an entomological net. The intricate underworld of thick grass is its home; there it may skulk or pause to scold the passing stranger in safety, or rise from his very feet to drop into the green sea but a few rods distant. Out of its grassy element this sparrow is as uncomfortable as a fish out of water. For this reason it is easier to hear his high-pitched strain than to catch a glimpse of him.

Late in July of a heavily-clouded evening at about 9 o'clock and consequently almost dark, I passed the haunt of a Henslow Sparrow, and promptly the shrill "tis-zeek!-tis-zeek!-tip-see-tis-zeek!" greeted my approach and followed me quite cut of ear-shot.

WINTER NOTES FROM DETROIT, MICHIGAN AND VICINITY.

B. H. SWALES.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax dilophus*).

On January 8, 1908, I watched a cormorant swimming near my place on Grosse Isle. Upon seeing me it rose heavily from the river, and flew slowly, with repeated flappings, down the river. To date there had been practically no ice on the river.

CANVAS-BACK (*Aythya vallisneria*).

During the winter of 1905-1906 a small flock of some twenty Canvas-backs remained throughout the winter near the mouth of the Detroit river. These fed generally in a large air hole, and from time to time one was shot by residents. During the winter of 1907-1908 a much larger body remained, feeding well out into Lake Erie, as there was no ice to speak of until about the first of February. This flock was estimated as high as three hundred birds.

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*).

On May 8, 1907, I watched for some little time a flock of forty-two Geese that flew over Grosse Isle, going eastward. These Geese were honking loudly and flying extremely low. My previous latest spring record was April 30, 1905. During